

# **VIRGINIA ENHANCED OPERATORS QUALIFICATION PROGRAM UPDATE 2016**





# The Beginning

- **VGOA Executive Committee formed in 2011**
  - **VA SCC began discussions regarding OQ**
- **SCC reviewed existing plans, training and testing materials and shared their concerns with the VGOA Executives**
- **After discussions, it was agreed that the existing OQ programs needed to be improved**

# The Beginning cont...

- It was decided to partner with a third party vendor, Northeast Gas Association
- Use their OQ model as a foundation on which to build the Virginia Enhanced Operators Qualifications
- Protocols and guidelines were established to address any potential conflicts or other issues
- In 2012 SME Teams were scheduled to work on specific tasks

# Task Development Process

- Evaluation development
- Validation
- Validation review
- Online training development
- Online training review and SME approval

# Benefits

- QR cards
- Opportunity for companies to update O&M manuals
- Mutual aid between companies
- Contractor acceptance

# Qualification VS Training

- Training is designed as refresher training for qualification purposes only
- It is not designed to replace or act as comprehensive company or manufacturers training in any way
- Equipment specific training should be provided by the operator

# Qualification VS Certification

- The program only covers qualification and not certification of joining of PE pipe.
- Currently performed by each operator individually.
- SME team has been tasked to develop a uniform method for certification of individuals



**VIRGINIA OQ PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT TASK STATUS**

**UPDATED: October 24, 2016**

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Task #	Task Name	Stage											
		Evaluation Development			SME Validation Review	Draft Online Training Storyboard Completed by ITS	Online Training Storyboard Comments Supplied to ITS by SMEs	E-learning Course Completed by ITS	E-learning Course Comments Supplied to ITS by SMEs	Final Review NGA and ITS			
		Development	Validation	Review	Completed by ITS	Supplied to ITS by SMEs	Completed by ITS	Supplied to ITS by SMEs	Comments	Comments			
16	Pipe Coatings				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
17	Anodes				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
18	Atmospheric Corrosion				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
19	Inspecting for a Shorted Casing				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
20	Clearing a Shorted Casing				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
21	Conducting Interference Testing				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
22	Diodes and Bonds				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
23	Electrical Isolation Couplings				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
24	Pipe to Soil Potential				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
25	Internal Corrosion				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
26	Operation of a Rectifier				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
27	Measuring Soil Resistivity				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
28	Test Stations				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
29	Welding				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
30	Tapping				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
31	Abandonment or Deactivation of a Pipeline				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
32	Remove a Service Tee from Main				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
33	Repair Distribution Lines				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
34	Repair Transmission Lines				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
35	Restore Service				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
36	Installation of Customer Meters & Regulators				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
37	Inspect, Operate and Lubricate Valves				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
38	Bending of Steel Pipe				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
39	Starting up or Shutting Down Pipeline				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
40	Controlling and Monitoring Gas Pressures				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
41	Inspect and Test Pressure Regulator Station				✓	✓	✓	✓					
42	Operating an Odorizer				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
43	Monitoring Natural Gas Odorization Levels				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
44	Field Interpretation of Pressure Recording Devices				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
45	Inspect Recording Gauge, Telemetry Equipment				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
46	Inspect a Pressure Regulator Vault				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
47	Upgrading				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
48	SCADA				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
49	Properties of Gas and AOCs				✓								

## VIRGINIA ENHANCED OQ PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT - COVERED TASK EVALUATIONS

Task #	Task Name	Evaluation Name (If different from covered task name)	Knowledge Evaluation	Skill Evaluation	Requal Period
9	Joining Plastic Pipe				
9A		Joining Plastic Pipe - Static Electricity and AOCs	✓		3 years
9B		Joining Plastic Pipe - Manual Butt Fusion	✓		3 years
9B.1		Joining Plastic Pipe - Manual Butt Fusion		✓	1 year
9C		Joining Plastic Pipe - Hydraulic Butt Fusion	✓		3 years
9C.1		Joining Plastic Pipe - Hydraulic Butt Fusion		✓	1 year
9D		Joining Plastic Pipe - Socket Fusion	✓		3 years
9D.1		Joining Plastic Pipe - Socket Fusion		✓	1 year
9E		Joining Plastic Pipe - Saddle Fusion	✓		3 years
9E.1		Joining Plastic Pipe - Saddle Fusion		✓	1 year
9F		Joining Plastic Pipe - Electrofusion	✓		3 years
9F.1		Joining Plastic Pipe - Electrofusion Saddle		✓	1 year
9F.2		Joining Plastic Pipe - Electrofusion Coupling		✓	1 year
9G		Joining Plastic Pipe - Mechanical Joining	✓		3 years
9G.1		Joining Plastic Pipe - Bolted Fitting		✓	1 year
9G.2		Joining Plastic Pipe - Compression Fitting		✓	1 year
9G.3		Joining Plastic Pipe - Stab Fitting		✓	1 year

**Notes: 1) An individual must qualify on Static Electricity and AOCs (9A) 2) To qualify for Hydraulic Butt Fusion (9C) an Individual MUST qualify on Manual Butt Fusion (9B)**

# Upcoming Task Releases

- **15 task released to date**
  - 32 knowledge evaluations
  - 18 performance evaluations
- **13 new corrosion task to be released in November 2016**
  - 25 knowledge evaluations
- **21 (pressure regulating & distribution) remaining task released by February 2017**
  - 30 knowledge evaluations
  - 7 performance evaluations

# Implementation Challenges

- Scheduling/Timing
- Language Barriers
- Proctoring
- Retesting

# Remaining on the agenda

- Release remaining task
- Securing the program
- Development of written plan
- Update O&M procedures

# Safety Culture

- “Doing the right thing when nobody is watching”
- Pride and Personal Accountability
- Team Effort to Ensure OQ Program Security and Integrity

# How we got here

- Over 4 years in development
- 12 different SME teams
- 140+ Face to face meeting days in Richmond
- 45+ Web Conferences



# Questions?

